



Launch Complex 39B

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION KENNEDY SPACE CENTER BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

Location

Launch Complex 39B is a National Historic Site located within KSC on the east central Atlantic Coast of Florida on Merritt Island in Brevard County. LC39B is the northernmost of the two space shuttle launch sites along the eastern boundary of KSC.

History

In the 1960's LC39B was an undeveloped site. LC39B was constructed for the Apollo Space Program and on May 18, 1969 launched Apollo 10. In 1975 the pad was retrofitted to support Space Transportation System (STS) operations and LC39B launched its first shuttle (Challenger STS-51) in 1986. It was believed that acids, bases, fuel compounds, solvents, grease, metals, and oils are either used or have been used at this site. An environmental investigation conducted by NASA found polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soil

samples at both the Deluge Basin Area (DBA) and at the Environmental Control System (ECS) building.

Soil Excavation

A soil excavation will take place in order to remove the PCB contamination. East of the ECS and South of the DBA building will be excavated 0-2 feet below land surface. An area of approximately 2,300 square feet will be removed at ECS and approximately 2,300 square feet will be removed at DBA. Each container of contaminated soil will be weighed, manifested, and transported to either Okechobee Landfill in Florida or the Pecan Row Landfill in Valdosta, Georgia for disposal.

Conclusion

The soil that will be removed at both ECS and DBA will effectively eliminate human health risks associated with PCBS at these sites.



This Fact Sheet was written and produced by the NASA/KSC Environmental Program Office. All comments or questions can be made by calling (321) 867-8402 or by writing to the following address:

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